

# Alaska Air National Guard

## 176th Wing

Public Affairs Office

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### **Alaska Air Guard members receive deployment orders**

*Governor confirms Federal activation of more than 150 Alaska Air Guard members*

**Kulis Air National Guard Base, Alaska** — Governor Frank H. Murkowski confirmed today that members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing have received federal activation and deployment orders to participate in ongoing operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

More than 150 members of the Alaska Air Guard were activated for a period of up to 12 months. Their deployment date has not been determined.

"We're certainly proud of their willingness to step forward and serve both Alaska and our nation," Murkowski said. "We wish each of these airmen and officers the very best as they prepare to deploy," he added.

Aircrew, aircraft maintainers, and support personnel are among those that received the call-up. "They are reporting to their units and will be ready to go," said Brig. Gen. Gene Ramsay, 176th Wing Commander. "Guardsmen train for this type of operation year after year. Now is the time to put their skills to use while contributing to a global cause," he said.

Airmen were busy with sundry items on Tuesday and Wednesday. From the seemingly mundane aspects of updating personnel records to getting medical checks, they were packing up equipment and listening to a range of pre-deployment briefings. Ramsay took time to engage his troops during one of their meetings, "I want to thank you all for your service, patriotism and professionalism. I can't tell you how proud I am of all of you."

"America is repositioning some of its military forces where required to support our global war on terrorism and to prepare for future contingencies as may be directed," said Brig. Gen. Craig Campbell, Adjutant General for the Alaska National Guard. "We've done other unit deployments over the past couple of years and we've also had some of our senior staff assigned to special missions as well," he added. "Alaskans step up and are counted on when it's their turn, and now is that time again; we owe much to our families, and to our employers for their support," he said.

Alaska's Army and Air National Guard have more than 200 members called to active duty.